Promotions of Officers of All India Services

1582. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to ensure that officers from the IAS, IPS and other All India Services are not penalised in matter of promotions due to new reforms in the last two years;

(b) whether fixing percentages in matter of empanelment to Joint Secretary and above is not violative of the spirit of law at the time of recruitment; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove the un-ease in the ranks of the All India Services, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) There are at present three All India Services *viz.*, IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service (IFS). The promotion of eligible officers from these Services is done strictly on the basis of an overall assessment of record and performance of the officers concerned. There are no fixed percentages in the matter of empanelment to Joint Secretary and above. The question of any penalisation or sense of un-ease therefore, does not arise.

Installation of Booths for International Telephone calls in Delhi

1583. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to instal permanent booths for international telephone calls at railways stations airports and important hospitals of Delhi; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) A limited number of S.T.D. Public Telephones imported alongwith Electronic Exchanges from Japan are being tried in the network. Out of 22 such STD Public Telephones in Delhi, only 7 have International Call Facility. This is only an experimental measure.

Amendment of the Official Secrets Act

1584. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the Second Press Commission for amending the Official Secrets Act have been considered; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has not considered it necessary to amend the Official Secrets Act, as recommended by the Second Press Commission, as the existing provisions in the law seem to be adequate.

Officials Accompanying the Prime Minister on his Visits to the States

1585. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has been accompanied by officials on his recent visits to different States, officially or unofficially;

(b) whether any such visits were made by the Prime Minister to West Bengal and Karnataka recently; and

(c) whether it is a fact that one of the officials of his Secretariat who at-